

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment amends this application to include a cross-reference to the priority International Application No. PCT/JP02/09818, filed on September 25, 2002 which was not published under PCT Article 21(2) in English. This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority from the prior Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-303438, filed September 28, 2001, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Claims 1-22 are presently active in the application.

Examination on the merits of Claims 1-22 are believed to be in order and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

BDL:fbl

I:\USER\FBLAZ\PCT BY-PASS\250563.PREL.AM.DOC